

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

Following herewith is a complete listing of the claims, including a marked copy of the currently amended claims.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising:

a video display that displays the information to be viewable by one or more users;

a user-recognition input device that determines, when at least one user is already present in a viewing volume having access to the display, whether an additional user is newly present in the viewing volume, said user-recognition input device including an audio input device for substantially continuously detecting sounds in said viewing volume, and an audio feature recognition device ~~for processing~~configured to substantially continuously process said sounds to enable said user-recognition input device to determine when said additional user arrives in said viewing volume; and

a control device coupled to the user-recognition input device and to the video display that selectively controls display of the information based on an output from the user-recognition device.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a imaging input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more image features of the users.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a priority is assigned to each user, and the control device selectively controls display based on each user's priority.
6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device selects a predetermined channel based on a determination by the user-recognition device.
7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising:
- a video display;
 - a user-recognition input device that identifies a plurality of users present in a viewing volume having access to the display and provides one or more values that correspond to the identities of the users, said user-recognition input device including an audio input device for substantially continuously detecting sounds in said viewing volume, and an audio feature recognition device ~~for processing~~ configured to substantially continuously process said sounds to enable said user-recognition input device to determine when an user arrives in said viewing volume;
 - a memory containing information that identifies a video content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;
 - a processor that compares a user-identity value from the input device to the memory content specifying which of the users are to be permitted access to that content and that produces an access-allowed indication based on that comparison; and
 - a blocking device coupled to the processor that selectively blocks display of the content based on the access-allowed indication wherein display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.
8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the video content includes television programming.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the video content includes computer-displayed text or graphics.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a video input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the user-recognition input device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising the steps of:

displaying video information;

determining that a user is newly present with at least one further user in a viewing volume having access to the display of video information, including substantially continuously acquiring audio input signals from said viewing volume, and substantially continuously performing feature recognition on the audio input signals to determine when said newly present user arrives in said viewing volume;

storing information that identifies a video content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

comparing a user-identity value from the input device to the memory content specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content and producing an access-allowed indication based on a permitted access comparison; and

selectively controlling display of the content based on the access-allowed indication.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the video content includes television programming.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the video content includes computer- displayed text or graphics.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising the steps of:
outputting the information in a form discernable to a user;
determining, when at least one user is already present in a viewing volume having access to the information, that an additional user is newly present in the viewing volume, including substantially continuously acquiring audio input signals from said viewing volume, and substantially continuously performing feature recognition on the audio input signals to determine when the additional user arrives in the viewing volume;
and
selectively blocking output of the information based on whether the additional user is newly present.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes determining the identity of a second user who has appeared, and assigning a priority to the second user, and based on the assigned priority of the second user, switching to a channel assigned to the assigned priority of the second user.

24-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling access to information comprising:

a display device that displays the information viewable by one or more people;

a recognition device that determines the identity of a plurality of people in a viewing volume where the information is viewable on the display device, said recognition device including an audio input device for substantially continuously detecting sounds in said viewing volume, and an audio feature recognition device ~~for processing~~ configured to substantially continuously process said sounds to enable said recognition device to determine when an additional user arrives in said viewing volume;

a control device coupled to the recognition device and to the video display that selectively blocks display of the information based on information content type and predetermined access controls for each identified person, wherein display is blocked if any person present in the viewing volume is not allowed access to the content.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the recognition device includes a imaging input device, and a feature recognition device operable to distinguish between two or more people based on one or more image features.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the recognition device includes a movement-detection device operable to distinguish when an additional person arrives in the viewing volume.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein a priority is assigned to each person, and the control device selectively blocks display based on each person's priority.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the control device selects a predetermined channel based on a determination by the recognition device.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity, the method comprising:

displaying video information;

identifying a plurality of users present in a viewing volume having access to the display of video information, including substantially continuously acquiring audio input signals from said viewing volume, and substantially continuously performing feature recognition on the audio input signals to determine when an additional user arrives in the viewing volume;

obtaining information that identifies content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

comparing each identified user to the information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content; and

selectively blocking display of the content based on the comparison.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the video content includes television programming.
39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein the information that identifies content comprises a rating for a program.
40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39 wherein portions of the program are individually rated and selectively blocked.
41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the video content includes computer- displayed text or graphics.
42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the identifying comprises acquiring video input, and performing feature recognition to distinguish between two or more users based on one or more video features of the users.
43. (Cancelled)
44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein identifying comprises detecting movement to distinguish when an additional user arrives.
45. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity, the device comprising:
means for making information viewable or audible;
identifying means for identifying a plurality of users present in a volume where such information is viewable or audible, said identifying means comprising means for substantially continuously acquiring audio input and means for substantially continuously performing audio feature recognition to determine when an additional user arrives in the viewing volume;

means for obtaining information that identifies content that is being made viewable or audible, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;

means for comparing each identified user to the information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content; and

means for selectively blocking making information viewable or audible based on the comparison.

46. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45 wherein the means for identifying each user present in a given area provides an identity selected from the group consisting of specific identity, criteria identity, exclusionary identity and presence identity.

47. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45 wherein the means for identifying each user present in a given area comprises an image recognition device.

48. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45 wherein display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.